

HISTORY OF UNEP CAMPUS

The UNEP had its simplest beginnings. There was an Apolinario Mabini Institute, a small college in Iriga, which had to be closed in 1948 because its owner had to move his school to Daet, Camarines Norte. Felix Ordas Alfelor, Sr., a practicing lawyer and businessman who lived in Moriones, Ocampo, Camarines Sur at that time had a lumber business in Iriga saw the opportunity of taking over the school. He and his wife, Remedios Rigoroso-Alfelor, then a public school teacher and principal of Moriones Elementary School organized the faculty staff corporate body to govern the new school. The new school was named Mabini Memorial School. Eventually, the founder had to move his family and law practice to Iriga in 1949,

The school had its first classrooms, administrative offices, in the then large Abella Building, now the present site of the defunct Banco Filipino building. In 1949, the then newly constructed building (now the Lourdes Hospital) housed the elementary school from grade 1-VL. Because of rising school enrollment, the then newly built Caganda building (present site of Paper Mart and South Star Drug) in 1950 became the administration building, library, school offices, classrooms for high school and college. The very encouraging response of the public not only in Rinconada but in the Bicol region, to the quality of education and services offered by the school, the school enrollment in elementary and high school rose and new college courses and degrees were opened. The school was granted a new name: Mabini Memorial Colleges in 1953.

The founder envisioned that a good school must provide a large campus where all of its buildings are in one place rather than in scattered places. In 1954, the two wooden buildings, parallel to one another, constructed at the site of the present entrance gate and driveway. were the first classrooms of the new site and housed some elementary classes. Meanwhile. truck after truck, workers were busy carrying earth, damping and filling by hand and shovel the swampland, the garbage dumping area of Iriga, and sacrificed rice lands. The campus soon to encompass 17 hectares of space. A long L-shaped wooden building, at the present site of Panga building, rose to house the large high school enrollees at daytime and college students during late afternoon and evening. A U-shaped well groomed 3 nipa made cottages were constructed near the present site of elementary building to house the large elementary department. A nipa and bamboo made bleachers were constructed around the oval for people of Iriga and Rinconada to seat while enjoying the long awaited different cultural, athletic, academic, military competitions held in the campus on various occasions, especially during the Foundation Week. The oval at that time was much smaller such that the present gymnasium site was not yet filled with earth. In the 70's, the earthquake proof 5 story college building was completed.

Presently, its ground floor is the Administration Building. In 1972, the Department of Education of the Republic of the Philippines granted the Mabini Memorial Colleges university status and renamed Mabini Memorial University but the Secretary of Education recommended to officially rename it to University of Northeastern Philippines in 1974 so that any one in the world would know that the school is located in the Philippines. The present campus which is now 25 hectares of space is not yet completely filled and

developed. A long range plan for the university campus awaits. The following pages represent the pictorial history of the UNEP campus.....



The first school building of Mabini Memorial School in 1948 was the top floor of the Abella Building, now the present site of the defunct Banco Pilipino. At that time college courses offered were Elementary Teacher's Certificate (E.T.C), Associate in Arts (Pre-Law), First Year B.S.E. and R.O.T.C.



The stairway at the right hand corner of the Abella Building was the most popular photo site of many school events and the balcony on top became the stage for many school programs. (This corner is at intersection of Highway 1 and Camposano Road, San Francisco, Iriga City across the present site of Morallo's Store.



Main entrance of the Mabini Memorial Colleges when it first moved to the present site in 1953. It is the present site of the Arch Main Entrance Gate.

The two parallel buildings behind first housed the elementary department; later the right- side building became the main library and the left- side building remain as class room. The two buildings have been replaced by the entrance gate, walk way and drive way of the present campus.



The bridge connecting the entrance walk way to the oval campus. Shown walking through the bridge were the U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, Adlai Stevenson and the top MMC officials who welcomed the guest. (this bridge way still exists). The parallel buildings behind were those behind the entrance gate.



Military parade and review for the welcoming guest at the MMC campus ground now, the present site of the oval.

Standing in attention during marching band rendition of the United States and Philippine National Anthem were:

L-R: Judge Jose F. Madara, Atty. Felix O. Alfelor, Sr., U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, Adlai Stevenson, Mr. Mariano Malonda, BSP Scout Master, Lt. Regino A. Revina,

Behind L-R: Fiscal Jose Nepomuceno, an Aide of Ambassador Stevenson, and Mr. Timoteo Panga.



Building on the background was the first high school department and the front room with two windows was the biology classroom and laboratory

headed by Remedios R. Alfelor. The small building on right hand side was the Registrar's Office. (Present site of the Panga Building).



On the background was the first wooden made high school building. The left side window was the President's Office and the middle and right side windows belonged to the Biology classroom. On the foreground were the third year high school students, presently the 1959 MMC High School Alumni.

L-R: Luzviminda de los Reyes, unidentified, Lilian Cleofe, Josefina Pante, Faustino Orbon, Norma Bagamasbad, May Nepumoceno, Trinidad Valenzuela, Filipinas Alfelor, Ester de Castro On the school ground were the Women Auxiliary Corps (WAC) and Philippine Military Training (PMT) team.



On the background was the high school building. The two windows room at the end of the balcony was the first office of the MMC President, Atty. Felix O. Alfelor, Sr. later became the office of the High School Principal, Mr. Timoteo Panga.



The MMC Oval now the UNEP Oval. On the background, the left side building was the Nightingale's Villa, the then nursing dormitory, now the dormitory for boarders, faculty, student assistants and varsity players. On the right side was the newly constructed U-shaped concrete high school building equipped with science and laboratory equipment, which were all destroyed by electrical fire in 1975.



In front of high school department was The Pavilion, gathering site for various school, social, civic, religious and charitable organizations. Also destroyed by same fire. Behind the previous site of the Pavilion is the newly constructed elementary school building.

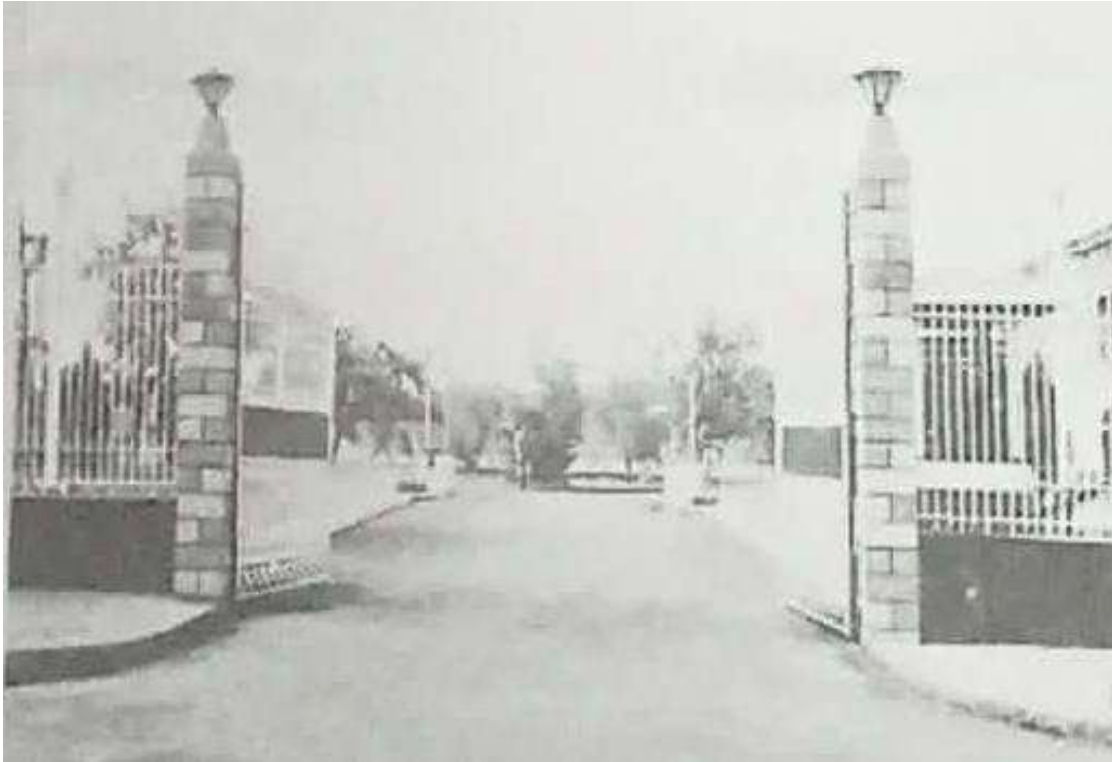


The first five-story building constructed at UNEP, now the present administration building. Beside it was the old grandstand with rooms below it which served as temporary residency for athletes, Automotive Room by Paul Alde, offices of Placida Guevara, MMC President Atty. Felix O. Alfelor and classrooms. Now is the present mini-grandstand between the administration building and the FOAS building.



Close up view of then U-shaped high school department before it was destroyed by fire, now the present site of the high school palladium.





The wooden white fence and the parallel buildings at the main entrance of the MMC in 1953 had been replaced by this gate, walk way and drive way leading to the bridge going to the oval.

And Now, University of Northeastern Philippines (UNEP)

New Building





WELCOME ARCH





FOUNDERS MONUMENT





FELIX O. ALFELOR MEMORIAL HALL





ADMINISTRATION BUILDING







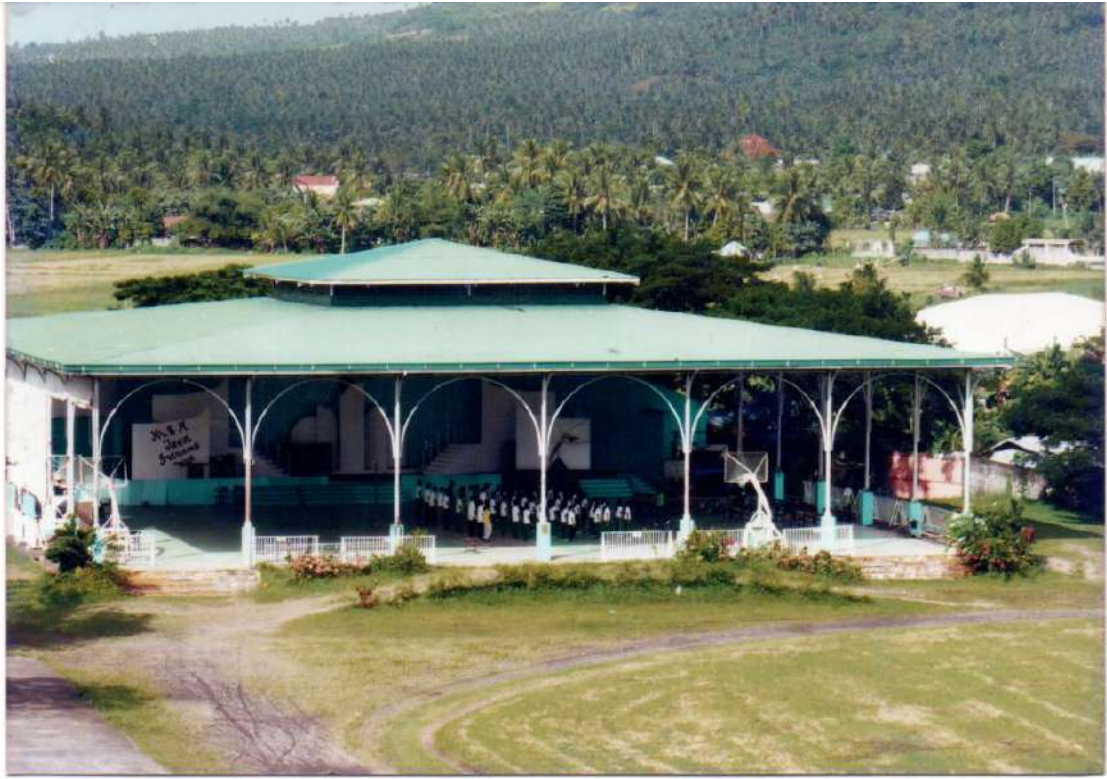
PANGA BUILDING





HIGH SCHOOL PALLADIUM BUILDING





GYMNASIUM









STUDENT PAVILION



